

# **Current Population Survey COVID-19 Items Extract Files**

## **Technical Documentation**

Starting in May 2020, a series of questions were added to the Current Population Survey related to the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. The first 4 questions concerned how an individual's labor force characteristics may have been caused by the pandemic. These questions will remain in CPS for the foreseeable future. A fifth set of questions captured whether the pandemic caused anyone in the household to need medical care for something other than Coronavirus, but not get it because of the pandemic. These questions will be (were) dropped from the CPS starting in November 2020.

Data processing of the extract file data consisted of a consistency edit and hot-deck allocation for non-response. Apply the person final weight (PWSSWGT) to generate weighted estimates. Nonresponse for the Covid-19 items varies month by month, but in general ranges from four percent to eleven percent.

There will be a separate extract file created for each month that the questions remain in CPS. In order to properly use this extract, it should be used in combination with the regular monthly CPS public use files. Use the first 4 variables on the extract file to match the extract data to the regular public use this file. This will allow the user to access the full set of demographic and labor force characteristics from basic CPS for their analysis.

# 2020 Covid-19 Items List

---

## Intro

**I now have a few questions related to work activities affected by the Coronavirus-COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to contain the Coronavirus have included business and school closures, social distancing, and other disruptions. The following questions refer to the last 4 weeks. By the last 4 weeks I mean the 4 week period ending last Saturday.**

Press (1) to Continue

---

## Teleworking

**COVID1** **At any time in the LAST 4 WEEKS, did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?**

(Enter No if person worked entirely from home before the Coronavirus pandemic)

- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
- 

## Shutdowns

**COVID2** **At any time in the LAST 4 WEEKS, were (you/name) unable to work because (your/his/her) EMPLOYER CLOSED OR LOST BUSINESS due to the Coronavirus?**

(Enter Yes for the self-employed who lost work or customers because of the Coronavirus pandemic)

- (1) Yes
  - (2) No
- 

## Cnfrm\_Shutdown

**COVID3** **Did (you/name) receive any pay from (your/his/her) EMPLOYER for the hours (you/he/she) DID NOT work in last 4 weeks?**

(Enter No if self-employed and received no pay from customers)

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

---

Job\_Search\_Impact

**COVID4 Did the Coronavirus pandemic prevent (you/name) from looking for work in the LAST 4 WEEKS?**

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

---

Healthcare\_Access

**COVID5 At any time in the last 4 weeks, did you or anyone in your household need medical care for something other than Coronavirus, but not get it because of the Coronavirus pandemic? Please include all adults and children in the household.**

(Enter NO if all persons in the household voluntarily cancelled or delayed medical care for themselves or another household member)

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

---

Healthcare\_Access\_who

**COVID5W Who was that?**

(Mark all that apply)

**CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY  
 COVID-19 EXTRACT FILE  
 MAY 2020 FORWARD RECORD LAYOUT**

NAME	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
QSTNUM	5	Unique Household Identifier Universe = All	1-5
OCCURNUM	2	Unique person Identifier Within a QSTNUM Universe = All	6-7
HRMONTH	2	Month of Interview Universe = All	8-9
		VALID ENTRIES	
		01-12	
HRYEAR	2	Year of Interview Universe = All	10-11
		VALID ENTRIES	
		20-Upward for as long the questions remain in CPS	
PTCOVID1	2	At any time in the LAST 4 WEEKS, did (you/name) telework or work at home for pay BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?	12-13
		Universe: PRTAGE = 16+, PRPERTYP = 1 or 2, and PEMLR = 1 or 2.	
		VALID ENTRIES	
		-1 Not in Universe 1 Yes 2 No	
PTCOVID2	2	At any time in the LAST 4 WEEKS, were	14-15

(you/name) unable to work because (your/his/her)  
EMPLOYER CLOSED OR LOST BUSINESS  
due to the Coronavirus?

Universe: PRTAGE = 16+ and  
PRPERTYP = 1 or 2.

VALID ENTRIES

-1 Not in Universe  
1 Yes  
2 No

PTCOVID3	2	Did (you/name) receive any pay from (your/his/her) EMPLOYER for the hours (you/he/she) DID NOT work in last 4 weeks?	16-17
----------	---	--	-------

Universe: PRTAGE = 16+, PRPERTYP  
= 1 or 2, and PTCOVID2 = 1.

VALID ENTRIES

-1 Not in Universe  
1 Yes  
2 No

PTCOVID4	2	Did the Coronavirus pandemic prevent (you/name) from looking for work in the LAST 4 WEEKS?	18-19
----------	---	--	-------

Universe: PRTAGE = 16+, PRPERTYP  
= 1 or 2, and PEMLR = 5, 6, or 7.

VALID ENTRIES

-1 Not in Universe  
1 Yes  
2 No

PTCOVID5W	2	At any time in the last 4 weeks, did ... need medical care for something other than Coronavirus, but not get it because of the Coronavirus pandemic? This item is a recode combining the last two	20-21
-----------	---	---	-------

items from the items list.

Universe: PRTAGE = 0+ and  
PRPERTYP = 1 or 2.

VALID ENTRIES

-1 Not in Universe  
1 Yes  
2 No

**Beginning November 2020**

FILLER

2

ALL

20-21

**End of Record**